Boeta now hungrier

Cricket

INTERNET, *Pretoria*

A stronger Boeta Dippenaar believes his current mental state is right for the coming cricket season that may just fit him like a glove.

The top South African batsman said at the South African training camp for the upcoming one-day series in Morocco that he learned a lot from the clashes against Australia and that he was feeling more positive than ever.

"It is a big season with lots of opportunities, but one should not live too far in the future. I was selected for the Moroccan tournament and I will concentrate on that," he said.

Dippenaar has a lot to prove because he has all the talent in the world. His performance with the bat proves it. In 29 one-day innings he scored 984 runs at an average of 42.78 per innings. This is better than any other batsman of our time at the comparative stages of their careers.

That includes top batsmen like Gary Kirsten (37.8), Herschelle Gibbs (22.07), Jacques Kallis (35.86), Andrew Hudson (29.34) and Kepler Wessels (38.33).

He plays cricket with abandon even though it is not everything to him. "Just look at the past season. I started off badly against Australia but got better as things went on and in the end I enjoyed myself thoroughly. That put everything into perspective.

BOETA DIPPENAAR

"It also helps to prepare yourself for something else in life like my studies. It gives you the assurance to enjoy what you are doing at the moment."

So far in his career he did not take the first ball when opening the South African innings only once from thirteen innings. His average as opener is 40.66 and he has come in at number 3 three times with an average of 49.50 and eight times at number 4 with and average of 65.00.

One of his worries about his technique is his tendency to play too far away from his eye. To correct this, Corrie van Zyl and Andy Moles helped him in the Free State nets during the off-season. Peter Carlstein from Perth also came over to visit and gave him a helping hand.

"Eric Simons (new SA coach) said from the first practice camp that I should try and play the ball a bit lower. I must also try to play closer to my body because in the past I gave the slips and gully fielders chances, especially when playing from the back foot."

Dippenaar, a batsman with strong legs, worked on his upper body strength in the off-season rather than spending most of his time on fitness training. If he can strike the right balance between the two only one question remains. How hungry is he?

Anna storms into semis

Tennis

AFP, *San Diego*

Unseeded Anna Kournikova of Russia outlasted 12th seed Anna Smashnova of Israel 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 to advance to Saturday's semifinals of the 750,000 dollar WTA San Diego event.

Kournikova, who boosted her 2002 match record to 21-20, and Smashnova put on a drama-filled display of tennis lasting two hours and 20 minutes.

Kournikova advances to the San Diego semi-finals for the second time in her career where she will face Jelena Dokic.

"I guess I was a step too slow in the beginning again," Kournikova said. "I was pretty tired from yesterday. I knew how I had to play her.

"I didn't do enough. I wasn't attacking. I wasn't coming to the net as much as the last time I played her."

The match, which featured 12 deuce games and numerous long rallies, began with Smashnova breaking Kournikova three times and winning the first set in 29 minutes.

Smashnova, ranked 19th in the world, was exceptional from the baseline as she pinned Kournikova deep in the backcourt.

But Kournikova fought back like she did in her third-round victory over Conchita Martinez as she evened the match when she broke Smashnova at 5-3 in the second set.

After dropping serve in the first game of the third set and falling behind 2-0, Kournikova won the next four games for a 4-2 lead.

It was Smashnova's turn to come back as the Israeli broke Kournikova's serve to tie the set.

Kournikova, ranked 47th in the world, then hit a booming overhead winner to go up 5-4 to the delight of the capacity crown cheering on the Russian beauty.

With Smashnova serving to stay in the match at 5-4, Kournikova had two break points.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Russian Anna Kournikova plays a backhand against Israeli Anna Smashnova at the Acura Tennis Classic on August 2.

Serving at 30-40, Smashnova framed a topspin backhand wide to send Kournikova into the semi-finals.

"I started taking the ball on the rise and started coming in again," said Kournikova, who also beat Smashnova last week at Stanford. "I had my adrenaline going and (kept) fighting."

Venus Williams of the United States and Kim Clijsters of Belgium clashed for the second straight week and while the match was much closer, the outcome was the same.

The top-seeded Williams recorded 31 winners but overcame 73 unforced errors Friday to edge the fifth-seeded Clijsters 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, in one hour, 51 minutes.

On Saturday, Williams faces No. 3 Lindsay Davenport of the United States, who crushed Japan's Ai Sugiyama, 6-1, 6-1.

In the other Friday match, Dokic stopped American second seed Jennifer Capriati 2-6, 6-2, 6-4

Williams, the two-time defending champion, dropped her first set at the La Costa Resort and Spa since the 2000 final, when she defeated Monica Seles.

Clijsters broke Williams' vaunted serve on a disputed call in the 12th game of the second set to level the match. "The umpire overruled, I don't call the lines," Williams said. "I let them make their own decisions."

On her first match point, Williams registered an ace to improve her career record at San Diego to 17-4.

"It was a good one last game," she said. "I was hitting a lot of great ones, but I don't think there was as much placement. But I finally got a good one."

NZ abase Pakistan

FROM PAGE 13

unbeaten record in the competition.

Matt Smith gave the Kookaburras the lead in the eighth minute with a powerful hit from the top of the circle that beat goalkeeper Chris Hibbert.

South Africa, who ended England's gold medal dream on Wednesday, drew level four minutes before half-time when Justin King scooped in a penalty corner.

Australia continued to attack in the second half and were rewarded with their second goal in the 45th minute when Bevan George scored off a goalmouth melee.

The South Africans pressed hard for the equaliser, but their hopes faded when Jamie Dwyer broke through the defence a minute from the end to enable Michael McCann make it 3-1 for Australia.

"A good game which we played very well to win," Australian coach Barry Dancer said.

"We always expected a tough fight from the South Africans, but the boys did not let up and gave us a fine victory.

"It's going just as we wanted it. Second place at the World Cup and now a chance to defend the gold medal here.

"I will never underestimate New Zealand. It's the final and they will come out blazing. So will we."

South African coach Robert Pullen said he was proud of his team despite the defeat.

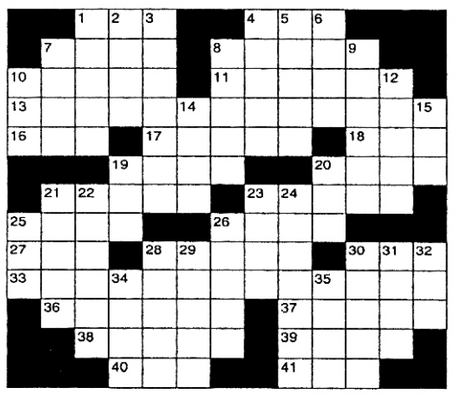
"We had our chances and at 1-2 it could have been anyone's game," he said.

"The Australians came out strong and won. Now it's our chance to pick up the bronze which will be just rewards for the hard work over the last 10 days."

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS
1 — de mer
4 Taxi
7 Like venison
8 A kind of singer
10 Preceding
11 Dwindled to zero
13 "Fiddler on the Roof" song
16 "How Can — Sure?"
17 Ice-cream parlor supply
18 Diego preceder
19 Lacking slack
20 For fear that
21 Relieve
23 Hit
25 Telegram
26 Ancient area
27 Blackbird of puzzles
28 Use a Cuisinart
30 Grafton's "— for Malice"
33 Adobe
36 Dry cleaner's targets
37 Choreographer Alvin
38 Condition
39 Take care of
40 Whatever number
41 Colorization

DOWN
1 Memorable battleship
2 Valentine's Day cherub
3 Song-like
4 Stop
5 — mirabilis
6 Benefit
7 Food
8 Singer Terence — D'Arby
9 Winter apple
10 Omega preceder
12 Rib
14 Type of mate
15 Stick with a kick
19 Ball-bearing item?
20 Abner's adjective
21 Nasal cavity
22 Evidence left by the ungloved
23 Chopin's companion
24 Spa treatment
25 Existed
26 "Sixth day of Christmas" gift
28 Skater Boitano
29 Fluff-covered
30 Pooh's creator
31 Frosted
32 Firmament
34 Information
35 Concert violinist Andre



Solution time: 26 mins.

S	T	A	R		S	K	A		T	A	B	U		
T	O	N	E		O	I	D		I	R	I	S		
E	R	I	C		F	L	A	G	P	O	L	E		
P	O	L	E	C	A	T		R	O	W	E	R		
			D	O	S		J	I	F					
R	A	Y	E	D		C	A	T	F	I	S	H		
A	L	E			I	O	N			D	I	E		
F	I	S	H	F	R	Y		B	E	A	T	S		
			O	L	E		C	O	N					
S	W	I	N	E		F	R	Y	C	O	O	K		
C	O	O	K	W	A	R	E		A	K	I	N		
A	R	N	E		W	A	S		M	I	L	O		
B	E	E	R		E	N	T		P	E	S	T		

CRYPTOQUIP

L K Q W H Q M W A L N J N S X L N W H L M M T C Z M S B Q V Q B Q B Q W J L B , X L F O A M T T H W S K H Q Z F O A T U V T O T Q U C ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EVERY FROG IS FAMILIAR WITH THE OLD ADAGE "TIME'S FUN WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FLIES!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals S

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Kapil to head an academy

REUTERS, *New Delhi*

A sports academy to promote young talent mainly in India's backward areas and headed by former cricket captain Kapil Dev has been launched.

The academy, promoted by leading Indian auto manufacturing group Hero Honda, will involve former sports personalities helping develop sports projects to usher in social change, Pawan Munjal, director of the Hero group, told reporters.

Ex-tennis champion Boris Becker was among those lending their support.

Dev said: "Such projects will help wean Indian youth away from violence and bad habits. I also expect many of our former stars to join the effort."

Mark to play for Essex?

INTERNET, *Sydney*

Australian Test batsman Mark Waugh is set to play for Essex for the final three weeks of the domestic season.

Waugh, 37, is understood to have signed a contract for the short spell at Chelmsford.

Waugh has played for Essex before and because he is no longer part of the Australian one-day squad, he does not have touring commitments in September.

Essex, whose season started off in fine style before failing off in recent weeks, are pushing hard for promotion in the County Championship.

Waugh let slip the news to reporters in Sydney on Thursday at the launch of his autobiography.

But Essex chief executive David East, who is currently on holiday, was not immediately available for comment.

Later, a club spokeswoman said Essex did not wish to make a statement about Waugh, but would do so when East returns.

Essex will lose their current international Andy Flower in September because he is set to be called into Zimbabwe's squad for the ICC Champions' Trophy in Sri Lanka.

Australians have a long association with Essex. Waugh's first season of county cricket for the Chelmsford-based clubs was in 1990, when he replaced Allan Border.

And Stuart Law played for Essex for many years before moving to Lancashire in the close season.

Tykes-Surrey tie Sunday

AFP, *London*

The Trophy semifinal between Yorkshire and Surrey has been rescheduled for Sunday after three days of persistent rain meant no play was possible at Headingley.

The match was due to be played on Wednesday with two reserve days scheduled in case of bad weather.

But after rain had prevented even a minimum 10 over per side match being played Friday the decision was taken to try again in 48 hours at Yorkshire's headquarters.

By the time Headingley was declared unfit Friday moving the fixture to another ground, a possibility that had been under discussion, was no longer an option.

Under tournament rules the result of the semifinal could have been decided by a bowl-out but the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) want the fixture decided in conventional fashion if at all possible.

Smoking-free

FROM PAGE 13

South Africa in 1999, which prohibits smoking in indoor public areas has worked, as it cut down the prevalence of smoking under the country's population from 28 to 22 per cent.

"The law is working," Ucko said, adding there was no doubt that smoking killed, and should be applied in outdoor public places as well.

"Even in a stadium, if 10 people smoke, hundreds around them suffer. We get complaints from people who are affected by second hand smoke from other people," he told the paper.

He said NCAS had taken up the issue with both the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) and the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Cricket World Cup 2003 spokesman Rodney Hartmann said however he was not aware of any discussions. "We have to see what they are proposing. We can't give a view until we hear from them," he said.

Waqar remains

FROM PAGE 13

February 8 to March 23 next year.

Waqar says he is thankful to the team for their run of success.

"I owe this run to my teammates and hope that the good work will continue to help us win the World Cup."

The Pakistan team flies to Tangiers, Morocco on Wednesday to play in a tri-series one-day event from August 12-21, also pitting South Africa and Sri Lanka.

Thorpedo's fifth strike

2002 Manchester THE XVII COMMONWEALTH GAMES

AFP, *Manchester*

Even when Ian Thorpe doesn't set out to make history, he does.

Thorpe won the men's 100m freestyle in a personal best time of 48.73sec, taking his gold medal haul at the Commonwealth Games to five, two shy of the unprecedented seven he is chasing.

The magnificent seven may never happen, but Thorpe did become the first man to sweep the 100m, 200m, and 400m freestyles at one Games -- improving his 400m world record to 3:40.08 in the process.

"I didn't know that hadn't been done before," said Thorpe, who has made a habit of doing the never before done in the pool.

"I'm very pleased with the result. I guess the difficulty is in trying to prepare to swim well across the board, get up for a sprint and have the endurance for the 400."

Thorpe said he tried to tailor his training to achieve across the distance spectrum, thus the improvement in his 100m free time from his previous best of 48.81.

But Thorpe admitted he was feeling a bit fatigued. He had swum every session, morning and evening, since competition started on Tuesday.

"I'm tired," Thorpe said.

But he had barely accepted his medal, and hugged fellow medallists Ashley Callus and Ryk Neethling for the cameras when he had to swim the first semi-final of the 100m backstroke.

Thorpe won that, too, clocking 56.49sec. But he was the fourth-fastest qualifier for the final, as world champion Matt Welsh won the second semifinal in 55.91, with Alexander Lim of Malaysia finishing second in 56.11 and Scotland's Gregor Tait third in 56.32.

"The purpose was just to get through to the final," Thorpe said.

Welsh, on the other hand, was trying to position himself for advantage, and he made it clear he has plenty in reserve.

"For me, that swim was just to secure lane four in the final, that's what everyone wants," said the Aussie who is hungry for gold after his disqualification in the 200m backstroke.

"I thought about going faster, but the race before was slower, so that was all that was necessary."

The backstroke, a recent addition to Thorpe's competitive schedule, is reckoned to be the biggest stumbling block to his goal of winning an unprecedented seven gold medals at these Games.

The freestyle, however, appeared to be his to win, and he did so without fuss.

Callus earned the silver in 49.45 and Neethling took bronze in 49.71.

"I enjoyed it," Neethling said. "When my career is over, I can look back and tell my kids that I swam against the greatest swimmer in the world. It's something I savour."

With two freestyle relay golds, Thorpe has surpassed the four gold medals he won in his Commonwealth Games debut in 1998.

However, Thorpe wasn't the only swimmer with a packed schedule on Friday.

South African Natalie du Toit, testing the waters in disability swimming after losing her left leg at the knee in a road accident 18 months ago, won her second gold of the Games in the women's 100m freestyle for disabled swimmers, then turned around and competed in the women's 800m freestyle final.

The 18-year-old had nabbed the last spot in the final against able-bodied rivals, and she finished last in the race. But the swimmer, who was a promising newcomer when she represented South Africa at the 1998 Commonwealth Games, achieved her aim of proving she could compete on equal terms.

England's Rebecca Cooke won the 800m in 8min 28.54sec, ahead of Amanda Pascoe in 8:34.19 and Jamaican Janelle Atkinson in 8:36.23.

Australian Petria Thomas wrote her name in the Commonwealth Games history books, too, becoming just the second swimmer, and the first woman, to win the same event at three consecutive Games with her victory in the 100m butterfly.

Thomas matched the feat of Michael Wenden, who won the 100m freestyle in 1966, 1970 and 1974.

Thomas, whose three world titles last year included both the 100m and 200m butterfly, had already won the 50m butterfly in Manchester and picked up bronze in the 200m freestyle and silver in the 4x200m free relay.

She won in 58.57sec, with Mandy Loots of South Africa second in 59.68 and Canada's Jennifer Button third in 1:00.22.

Justin Norris earned his second gold of the Games with a storming finish past Brian Johns in the 400m individual medley.

"I had a little bit left at the end, and that's what gave me it, but my body's about KO'd," said Norris, who gave Australia gold in the 200m butterfly on Tuesday.

He trailed slightly going into the final freestyle leg and didn't wrest control from Canada's Johns until the final 25m.

He won in 4min 16.95sec, with Johns winning silver in 4:17.41 and England's Adrian Turner winning bronze in 4:18.75.

PHOTO: AFP

Australia's Ian Thorpe waves to fans after winning his fifth gold in the men's 100m freestyle at the Mancester Aquatic Centre on August 2.

GAMES DIARY

2002 Manchester THE XVII COMMONWEALTH GAMES

AFP, *Manchester*

Commonwealth Games diary for Saturday:

England's Adrian Turner, bronze medallist in the men's 400m individual medley at the Commonwealth Games, was fighting for his life, let a lone a swimming career, on New Year's Eve of 1999 when he was struck by a mysterious virus and required six blood transfusions.

"The doctors didn't know what it was, it's taken a lot of pain to get from where I was to where I am tonight," Turner said.

"I was in hospital over New Year's eve at the Millennium," he recalled. "That was the worst point. I didn't get back to training until April 2000. I missed Sydney. And this is a nice way to finish the story."

ALL WRIGHT ON THE NIGHT

Welsh cyclist Will Wright, the main victim of the multi-bike crash which marred the men's cycling points race Friday was on the mend the following day after sufferring extensive bumps and bruises.

Wright smashed his helmut in the horrific-looking crash and although he was able to walk away from the incident, he needed extensive medical treatment.

"There doesn't seem to be anything seriously wrong with him," said team offical Malcolm Stammers. "Knowing cyclists he will probably be on his bike again today."

LEARNING CURVE FOR PAKISTANI SWIMMER

Kiran Khan, the 12-year-old swimmer who is one of the women making history as the first to represent Pakistan at the Commonwealth Games, had a disappointing swim in the women's 200m backstroke on Saturday, but she's delighted with her Games experience.

"I'm not tired from my previous races," said Khan, whose time of 2:46.90 put her last in the heats, which were led by England's Sarah Price in 2:11.91.

"I'm still having fun here," she added. "I like it in the Athletes' Village, they take good care of us. My time in the race was bad today, I know, and next time I come to the Commonwealth Games I would like to improve that."

MOVIE MAGIC FOR ONE-ARMED AUSTIN

Australian Ben Austin set a world record for his disability swimming category in the heats of the men's 100m multi-disability freestyle at the Commonwealth Games on Saturday, but if swimming doesn't work out he can always fall back on his movie career.

Austin, who swam the 100m free in a superb 1min 00.27sec to improve on the target time of 1:01.47, has a role in the films Matrix 2 and Matrix 3.

"I was originally cast as a dead soldier, but as I was the only one-armed man they had, they gave me many of the gory scenes," he said. "It was good fun."

Safin sent packing

Tennis

AFP, *Toronto*

Argentine Guillermo Canas improved his unexpected run of hard-court success, ousting second seed Marat Safin 7-5, 6-3 on Friday for a semi-final spot at the 2.95 million-dollar ATP Masters Series.

Canas added the 2000 Toronto event winner Safin to a victim list which also includes tenth seed Roger Federer and No. 5 seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

The South American has now notched wins over this year's Australian Open finalist Safin in both of the pair's hard-court matches.

Safin was disappointed with his play.

"I was missing my opportunities all over the court," he said. "I had so many, I can't explain how frustrated I am right now. I had everything and I lost it all."

The Russian converted on only one of seven break point chances while Canas, the first Argentine since 1978 to reach the quarters in Canada, was good on three of four.

"I'm so angry I can't describe it," said Safin. "I didn't underestimate him, he's a good player. He's in the top 20, so you know he'll play great tennis."

The 24-year-old Canas from Buenos Aires is aiming to become the first Argentine winner at the event since Guillermo Vilas in 1974 and 1976.

In other matches on Friday, Germany's Tommy Haas advanced to the semis with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 win over France's Fabrice Santoro; American Andy Roddick beat David Nalbandian of Argentina 6-3, 6-2; Czech Jiri Novak defeated France's Sebastien Grosjean 7-5, 6-3.

Roddick will play Novak while Haas meets Canas on Saturday.

Roddick, 19, dropped just nine points on serve and has yet to be threatened this week on the cement, winning 41 of his 42 service games.

"I'm very pleased, my game is tight," said Roddick after winning the battle between the two youngest players in the field.

"I'm feeling great on the serve. Everything feels really easy right now. My motion is very fluid, I hope I can keep it that way."

Roddick left Nalbandian with a 7-5 record on cement this season.

The Argentine was playing in his first hard-court tournament since the Miami Masters in March when he lost to countryman Franco Squillari in the first round.

"My game is all about my serve and forehand," said Roddick. "I'm getting better and the more matches I play, the more I improve. I think I'm building up nicely for the US Open."

PHOTO: STAR

Action from yesterday's Orient Bread Cup handball tournament match between Narinda Pragati Sangha and Bangladesh Police at the court adjacent to Bangabandhu Stadium

Lewis, Tyson sued

REUTERS, *New York*

Jose Sulaiman, the president of the World Boxing Council, has filed a $56 million (35 million pounds) lawsuit against Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis, saying he was knocked out, spat on and threatened when a brawl broke out between the two heavyweights at a New York City news conference in January.

In Manhattan Supreme Court papers made public on Friday, Sulaiman, 71, from Mexico, said he was knocked unconscious when he hit his head on a table.

The papers said that as a result of the melee in which Tyson charged at his British rival, Sulaiman was "maliciously and violently assaulted ... causing him to fall and inflicting serious bodily injury upon him".

The WBC president said he suffered permanent physical and psychological injuries. He had to undergo dental surgery after having some teeth knocked out and now suffered from ringing in his ears.

Others named in the lawsuit include Lewis' American promoter, Main Events, Dan Klores, the public relations firm that represented Tyson at the time, Showtime Networks, Home Box Office Marketing, HBO Direct and the Millennium Hotel in New York City where the news conference took place.

Pak ponder

FROM PAGE 13

to travel to the country.

Its fixture list has been in disarray since the September 11 attacks on the Untied States, and subsequent US-led war in neighbouring Afghanistan.

The West Indies called off a tour of Pakistan earlier this year which was later played on neutral territory in Sharjah.

Pakistan has also been forced to move a triangular one-day series to Kenya due to security concerns.

Pakistan says it has lost more than 20 million dollars in revenues because of cancelled or changed tours.

Irresistible Nakib

FROM PAGE 13

The defeat stripped Dhanmondi of their two-match unbeaten tag.

The mediocre team won both their previous games in the tie-breaker including an unset act against defending champions Abahani.

Yellow cards: Dulal, Porimal, Ponosh Sicim (Dhanmondi), Joy and Abdullah (Mohammedan).

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Nizam, Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Titu (Faisal), Idris Abdullah, Joy, Monwar (Tushar), Salieu (Sentu), Kanchan and Nakib.

DHANMONDI: Ratan, Dulal (Shipon), Porimal, Narayan, Hanif, Polash, Ponosh Sicim, Nurul Islam, Tapu and Parvez.

Referee: Tajul Islam